

WILLAPA BAY – NORTH RIVER/SMITH CREEK FALL CHINOOK

This stock was known as the Fall River Early (North River) fall Chinook in 1992.

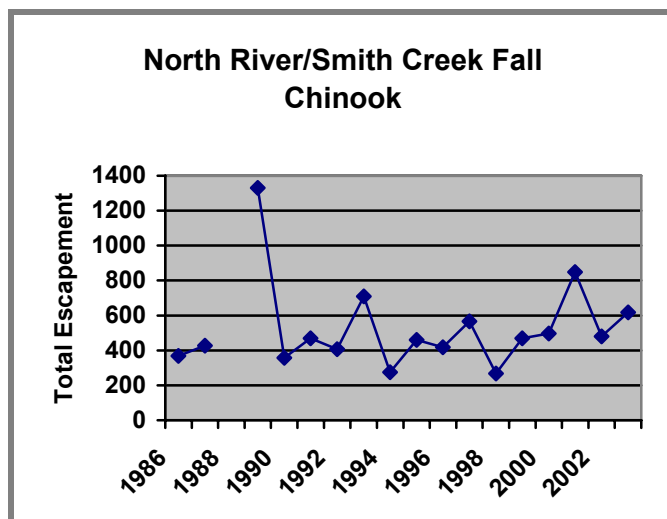
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Depressed	Depressed

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Fair

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	368
1987	427
1988	No data
1989	1,330
1990	357
1991	469
1992	407
1993	710
1994	275
1995	460
1996	418
1997	567
1998	267
1999	470
2000	497
2001	848
2002	480
2003	618



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts in index areas within the North River and Smith Creek.

Escapements have not changed greatly since the status was rated Depressed in 1992, however the 2001 escapement of 848 fish is the largest since 1989. Status remains **Depressed** in 2002 due to **chronically low** escapements.

STOCK DEFINITION

North River/Smith Creek fall Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution and early spawning timing.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in the mainstem North River near the confluence with the Fall River, in the lower Fall River and in Smith and Ramie creeks. Some spawning also occurs in Lower Salmon River, left and right fork of Ramie creeks and Clearwater Creek.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from late September through November, a little earlier than other Willapa Bay fall Chinook stocks.

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GENETIC ANALYSIS: Genetic analysis has not been done on North River/Smith Creek fall Chinook.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production. Three releases of fall Chinook have occurred in Fall River in the 1960s. The releases originated from Willapa Bay hatcheries and were normal-timed fall Chinook stock. There is no history of early-timed Chinook released into Fall River. While some potential for hybridization did exist, Fall River early-timed Chinook are not thought to have been significantly impacted and are considered native in origin.